



Governor Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
San Wong, Director



November 29,2022 Minutes 10 am-12 pm

Present: Carly Armour, Jillyn Kaufman,Brian Gongol, Tina Caloud

Absent: Telina McKenna-Quintana

Staff: Monica Stone- Deputy Director,Maria Guevara-Administrative Assistant

Guest: Shirley Hampton, President of the Iowa Association of the Deaf and Betty Hansen from the board of Iowa State Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

Approval of Minutes from 8/26/2022 motioned by Kaufman 2nd by Armour.
Motion passed.

Public Comment Betty Hansen, would like for commissioners to really think about Hampton's position statement. Furthermore for them to act and help move things forward to make changes to services for the deaf community. She is concerned about the lack of services.

Guest Speakers Hampton reports she wrote this position statement after getting many phone calls asking where to go for assistance. The following 7 areas are discussed in the position statement are

1. Mental Health Services
2. Elderly Care Services for Deaf Individuals
3. Representation in State Meetings
4. Easy and Intuitive Access to Information
5. Legislative/Appropriation Proposal to Increase Services
6. Recruiting & Hiring
7. Commission Vacancies

Hampton reports there are more services for the Blind than for the Deaf. There are vacancies open on the commission that should be filled. In 2010 legislation changes occurred in each office under Community Advocacy & Services changing duties. The Department of Human Rights, became an information clearing house and providing input for legislators. Stone explained direct services previously provided are being served by different state agencies. The budget has shifted.

Commissioners asked if services previously provided can come back. Stone explained it would take legislative changes. A commissioner asked if the office can receive grants. Stone explained some grants have specific applicant restrictions. However, foundation grants would be something we can look into. Currently the division has six people for seven offices. Hampton reports mental health is something that also needs to be addressed.

Department updates

There is government realignment occurring. The most recent example is Human Services and Public Health merger. There could be more changes occurring during the upcoming legislative session. Commissioners asked what they could do to support the office. Creation of a status report of community needs by holding public forums.

Commissioner Gongol expressed that some items in Hamptons position statement are not tactical. A strategic plan needs to be created to achieve some of the goals.

Commissioners discussed establishing work groups to create more information on certain topics. An advisory committee can be created with outside members. If there is no quorum in an advisory committee it does not need to be a public meeting.

Stone did clarify the office and the commission are two different items. The office was created to be an information clearing house that is how it's written in state code and the commission is a volunteer position providing input to state government.

The commission decided the main areas of focus are: funding, communication identifying services, legislation, and mental health.

Gongol will focus on communication Caloud and Kaufman will work on mental health.

Stone explained the office could help provide information on funding partners and with finding meeting spaces and scheduling interpreters.

Stone reported someone from Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation was going to join the meeting to provide some insight into how the departments may be working together.

Voting for vice chair

Voting was to occur for vice chair however commissioner Armour clarified she has been vice chair for about 2 years.

Strategic Plan Review

More discussion is needed on this item at the next meeting.

Website Feedback

Hampton said the Deaf Services DHR webpage is out of date, suggesting making newsletters easier to find.

Guevara explained a survey regarding website suggestions will be sent out to commissioners following the meeting.

Adjourn 12:02pm